

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2954

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 03278

FROM LOS DEL

H FOR SENATOR PELL FROM AMBASSADOR ELLIOT RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS - DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION (S.2053)

DEAR SENATOR PELL:

AS MY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT INFORMED YOU ON THE TELEPHONE,
I TALKED TODAY TO SEVERAL OF YOUR COLLEAGUES ON THE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE ABOUT SEABED MINING LEGISLATION AND AM
SENDING TELEGRAMS TO THEM AND OTHERS URGING THEM TO SUPPORT
THIS LEGISLATION. FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE FOLLOWING IS
THE TEXT OF MY TELEGRAMS. I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR IN-
TENTION TO DO YOUR BEST TO PRESIDE OVER THE MARK-UP OF THIS
IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

BEGIN TEXT:

I WAS PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT THE
DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION (S.2053). BEFORE IT IS
MARKED UP BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TOMORROW,
I WOULD LIKE TO AMPLIFY MY VIEWS AND THOSE OF THE ADMINI-
STRATION ON THIS LEGISLATION.

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WHILE THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE
DID MAKE PROGRESS IN GENEVA, IT IS HIGHLY UNCERTAIN WHEN OR
WHETHER AN ACCEPTABLE TREATY WILL BE SIGNED. IT IS CLEAR,
IN ANY CASE, THAT SEVERAL YEARS WILL PASS AFTER THE TREATY
IS SIGNED BEFORE IT ENTERS INTO FORCE, AND ADDITIONAL TIME
WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
TO PROMULGATE ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS AND FINALLY APPROVE

CONTRACTS.

IN THE MEANTIME, THERE IS A VERY REAL RISK THAT AMERICAN OCEAN MINING COMPANIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN THEIR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS UNDER THESE HIGHLY UNCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. IN MY JUDGMENT, MOREOVER, THE CERTAIN PROSPECT OF DEEP SEA MINING WILL HELP TO STRENGTHEN THE SPIRIT OF REALITY AND COMPROMISE WHICH HAS RECENTLY CHARACTERIZED THE LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS.

ALTHOUGH IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THERE WILL BE SOME ADVERSE REACTIONS AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE PENDING LEGISLATION, I AM CONVINCED NOT ONLY THAT IT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST FOR S.2053 TO BE ENACTED INTO LAW AT THIS SESSION OF THE CONGRESS BUT THAT THIS WILL ALSO ADVANCE THE INTEREST OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE FULFILLMENT OF THE COMMON HERITAGE.

AT THE SAME TIME, I MUST EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO S.2053 THAT WE BELIEVE WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE BILL FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEES MADE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BILL, BUT THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT THE FURTHER AMEND-

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MENTS SET OUT IN MY TESTIMONY OF AUGUST 17 BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ARE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A SOUND SEABED MINING PROGRAM FOR THE UNITED STATES.

I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF S.2053 BY THE 95TH CONGRESS SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE YOU WILL LEND YOUR SUPPORT TO THIS END.

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS I WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS THEM WITH YOU. I MAY BE REACHED IN NEW YORK AT THE FOLLOWING NUMBER: (212)826-5791.

END TEXT

WITH WARM REGARD, SINCERELY, ELLIOT.

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Message Attributes

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